

REMARKS

Claims 1-63 are pending in this application. Applicants have cancelled claims 37 and 55 without prejudice. Claims 30, 44, and 63 have been amended. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider the rejection of the pending claims in light of these amendments and the analysis of the prior art below.

I. Objection to the Drawings

The Examiner has objected to the drawings because “reference character ‘120’ has been used to designate both inner latch and outer latch; and reference character ‘130’ has been used to designate both inner latch and outer latch.” Applicants respectfully submit that the drawings are correct with respect to the labeling of references 120 and 130. However, amendment to the specification at the page 16, line 17 is necessary in order to correct a clerical mistake. In particular, this is the lone mistaken reference in the patent specification that refers to the inner latch as 130 and the outer latch as 120. The appropriate amendment to that paragraph is made herein.

II. Rejection of Claim 63 under 35 U.S.C. §112

Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider this indefiniteness rejection in light of the amendments made herein to claim 63.

III. Rejection of Claims under 35 U.S.C. §102

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the allowance of claims 1-29 and the allowability of claims 31-43, 45-54, and 57-63 over the prior art.

Claims 30 and 44 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 4,603,464. Applicants have amended claim 30 to include the limitation of allowable dependent claim 37. Applicants have amended claim 44 to also include the allowable subject matter contained claim 37. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider the rejection of claims 30 and 44 in light of these amendments.

Claim 56 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 3,902,385 (Haby). Applicants respectfully assert that the Haby reference does not teach or suggest an apparatus for making up jointed pipe comprising a pair of gripping members and a

remotely operated latching mechanism for connecting the gripping members. In particular, Haby discloses a manually operated latching mechanism 39. Because Haby does not teach each and every element of claim 56, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider the rejection of claim 56.

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Applicants believe that the present pending claims are in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner reconsider the rejection of the pending claims in light of the above amendments and analysis of the prior art.

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In order to facilitate the resolution of any questions presented by this paper, Applicants request that the Examiner directly contact the undersigned attorney by telephone at 713-787-1496 to further the discussion, reconsideration, and allowance of the claims.

Respectfully submitted,



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